

February 10, 2009

The Honorable John D. Rockefeller  
Chairman, Senate Committee on Commerce,  
Science and Transportation  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kay Bailey Hutchison  
Ranking Member, Senate Committee on  
Commerce, Science and Transportation  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Rockefeller and Ranking Member Hutchison:

The undersigned organizations representing supporters, stakeholders, and partners of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) are writing to express our enthusiastic endorsement of Dr. Jane Lubchenco as the next Administrator of NOAA. We urge her speedy confirmation.

NOAA is the leading agency in the Federal Government responsible for providing decision makers with critically important data, products, and services that promote and enhance the nation's economy, national security, environmental protection, and our overall quality of life. As priorities shift to adjust to emerging challenges, such as climate change, NOAA too must adapt. NOAA needs a leader who will let science be their guide and will facilitate the structural and policy changes needed to ensure that NOAA is positioned to tackle the priorities of today and the challenges of tomorrow.

In this regard, it will be paramount for NOAA to enhance its partnership with the external community including industry, research and education. Given her background as a researcher and educator, we have no doubt Dr. Lubchenco appreciates the role of the extramural community in informing policy decisions through sound science. However, NOAA has not made significant efforts to engage the external scientific community, especially when compared to its sister science agencies throughout the Federal Government. We are hopeful that enhanced support for external NOAA research will be among Dr. Lubchenco's early priorities if confirmed as NOAA Administrator.

The intersection of science and policy is where NOAA needs to be. Dr. Lubchenco's leadership will establish NOAA as a premier scientific agency by intimately linking science with policy and will position the U.S. as a leader in the global environmental community. We urge the Senate to confirm Dr. Jane Lubchenco as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

AccuWeather, Inc.  
American Meteorological Society  
American Society of Limnology and Oceanography  
American Weather & Climate Industry Association  
Annis Water Resources Institute, Grand Valley State University  
Arizona State University

Association of Zoos and Aquariums  
Belle W. Baruch Institute for Marine & Coastal Sciences, University of South Carolina  
California Polytechnic State University Center for Coastal Marine Sciences  
Campaign for Environmental Literacy  
Chesapeake Biological Lab, UCMES  
Dr. Rita R. Colwell, Director, National Science Foundation, 1998-2004  
Dauphin Island Sea Lab  
Duke University Marine Laboratory  
Ecological Society of America  
Environmental Defense Fund  
Florida Institute of Oceanography  
Florida International University Southeast Environmental Research Center  
F.T. Stone Laboratory  
Great Lakes WATER Institute, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee  
Grice Marine Laboratory, College of Charleston  
Hatfield Marine Science Center, Oregon State University  
Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology  
Hubbs-SeaWorld Research Institute  
Institute of Marine and Coastal Sciences Rutgers University The State University of New Jersey  
Kewalo Marine Lab, University of Hawaii  
Marine Biological Laboratory, Woods Hole  
Marine Programs at the University of Connecticut  
Maryland Sea Grant  
Moss Landing Marine Laboratories, California State University  
Mote Marine Laboratory, Inc.  
National Association of Marine Laboratories  
National Federation of Regional Associations  
North Carolina State University, Center for Marine Sciences and Technology  
The Ocean Foundation  
The Ocean Project  
Ohio Sea Grant College Program, The Ohio State University  
Old Dominion University  
Perry Institute for Marine Science  
Restore America's Estuaries  
Roger Williams University  
Romberg Tiburon Center, San Francisco State University  
Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science, University of Miami  
Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation Marine Laboratory  
Savannah State University Marine Sciences  
Shannon Point Marine Center  
Shoals Marine Laboratory  
Skidaway Institute of Oceanography  
Stony Brook University School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences  
UCLA Institute of the Environment  
United Fishermen's Marketing Association, Inc.  
University Corporation for Atmospheric Research

University of Delaware College of Marine and Earth Studies  
University of Florida Marine Laboratory at Seahorse Key  
University of Maryland Biotechnology Institute, Center of Marine Biotechnology  
University of New England  
University of New Hampshire Marine Program  
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Marine Sciences Program  
University of Oklahoma  
University of Rhode Island Graduate School of Oceanography Biological Faculty  
University of Texas at Austin Marine Science Institute  
University of Washington Friday Harbor Laboratories  
Virginia Institute of Marine Science, College of William and Mary  
WeatherBank, Inc.  
The Weather Channel  
The Weather Coalition  
Whitney Laboratory for Marine Bioscience of the University of Florida  
Wrigley Institute for Environmental Studies, University of Southern California